November Newsletter

**5th Grade Chit-Chat**

**Reading**: This month I have been finishing our characterization unit. Recently we have been focusing on how authors use symbolism in writing and students have identified symbolism in their read aloud book. We have also focused on making inferences and conclusions and identifying clues that help us make our inference. In December we will start our poetry unit. We will focus on interpreting a poem’s message based on imagery used in the text, comparing poems with other texts, and identify figurative language in the text.

\*Students are required to write at least **four** summary/responses for the second marking period and have ten well-written post-it notes for each book.

We are almost done reading our read aloud book, Maniac Magee. Students are anxious to find out what will happen to Jeffrey “Maniac”, the books main character!

**Writing**: In writing students finished their second class writing piece, which focused on having a clear pot. The students really enjoyed writing these stories and are really creative! The students have focused on developing their characters though details and dialogue, as well as developing the setting of their story. In December students will focus on writing a variety of poems and students will create a poetry book, which will holds all of their work.

***Upcoming Events to***

***look out for…***

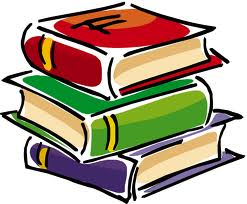
**Santa Shop:** Monday, December 5th at 5pm-7:30 pm

**Midterm*:***December 9th (A midterm grade sheet will be sent home early the following week)

Picture retake- December 15th

**Winter break**: Monday, December 26

through Tuesday, January 2nd



**Help your child with their…**

**Uninterrupted Reading**

**The most important aspect of reading is constructing meaning.** If you have a reader who reads making some miscues (unexpected responses to text) that are mostly meaning-making, do not interrupt except when the miscues do not make sense or do not sound like language.

If a reader reads the sentence "The horse ran down the road" as "The pony ran down the road," do not

"correct" him/her. That sentence made sense in the context of the story and sounded like language. But if he/she reads "The house ran down the road," ask if that made sense. Then ask him/her to reread the text to make it sensible. If the reader says it did make sense, ask him/her to reread it anyway because it didn't make sense to you, the listener.

**Focusing readers on reading to make sense** **is what is most important.**

**5th Grade Chit-Chat**

**Continued…**

**Math**: This month we focused on fractions.

Students learned the difference between proper fractions, mixed numbers, and improper fraction. They compared fractions, added and subtracted fractions, as well as learned how to multiply and divide fractions.

We also focused on solving word problems involving fractions. Next month we will continue to focus on fractions.

**Science-** Students finished their landforms unit. They had a lot of fun learning about different kinds of landforms, erosion, and about maps. We will start our next science unit, which is variables, the second half of the marking period.

**Social Studies**- For the first half of the marking period students will focus on social studies. This is the first time the students get to explore their social studies textbook. I can tell that the students love history! So far we have focused on the ice age and the Vikings. The student even completed a project where they compared the Viking lifestyle to their own. We will also focus on the age of exploration and how technology at that time affected exploration.

***Help Our Class Get More Books for the Class Library!***

**Parents-**

**The students have been doing lots of great reading so far this year! They have read all kinds of different books!**

**My goal is to add to our library and keep the students reading! There are several books that we don’t have in our class library that I know the students would really enjoy reading.**

**Did you know Amazon is a great place to buy books at a great price? Also almost all of the books have free shipping! If you were planning on getting a teacher gift, or want to give a class present this year for the holidays, an Amazon gift card will be greatly appreciated by all in the classroom!!! This will allow me the opportunity to buy books for the students.**

**It is extremely easy to get an Amazon gift card. All you need to do is go to amazon.com, click on “gift card” and then click on how you want to get the gift card (email, print, or mail). You can then personalize your gift card for any amount you want!**

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